

2006 Grants

North Africa and the Middle East: 13 Projects

Name of Organization: University of Michigan-Dearborn

Location: Dearborn, Michigan

Subject: Building ties between Arab American business people and aspiring business people in Yemen

The University of Michigan-Dearborn is promoting economic growth and a more open market-oriented economy in Yemen by supporting entrepreneurship and small business activity. This four-phased project to develop ties between Arab-American business people and aspiring business people in Yemen is comprised of American-led in-country workshops for 50 participants, a three-week U.S.-based workshop/internship for 15 Yemenis, the development of new enterprises in Yemen, and an international mentoring program, which involves one-on-one advising as well as seminars and workshops held in Yemen by eight American businesspeople and academics in the fields of finance and commerce.

Country(ies): Yemen

Region: Near East

U.S. State: MI

Theme(s): Business

Name of Organization: Center for Higher Education in the Middle East

Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts

Subject: Encouraging educational leadership and intercultural dialogue

The Center for Higher Education in the Middle East (CHEME) is designed to promote innovative teaching methodologies and curriculum enhancements focused on openness and coexistence and fostering democratic principles in the Middle East and North Africa. The 28 MENA secondary school teachers from eight countries who participate in the intensive, month-long Teacher Education Institute experience site visits, lectures, discussions, group project developments, skill building exercises, and, in the process, enhance their knowledge and understanding of one another's societies and cultures. This is a professional exchange: ten American educators will travel to the MENA region; 28 MENA secondary school teachers will travel to the United States.

Country(ies): Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon , Morocco, the Palestinian

Authority, Tunisia

Region: Near East

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Hamline University

Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

Subject: Creating a civic education teacher certificate program for the Middle East

Hamline University builds on an intensive Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian-American cooperative effort in civic/democracy education through an institute for teacher training, strengthening the capacity of civic education teachers in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to implement a pedagogy of civic responsibility in their communities. Twenty-five teachers from the Middle East and 20 American teachers meet in an intensive two-week summer institute in St. Paul, Minnesota, and engage in formal studies, community outreach, mentoring, and networking. Workshops and youth leadership seminars are conducted by teams of American and Middle Eastern teachers in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority throughout academic year 2006-07.

Country(ies): Israel, Jordan, Palestinian Authority

Region: Near East

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems

Location: San Francisco, California

Subject: Developing Egyptian criminal trial alternatives

The Institute for the Study and Development of Legal Systems is building on intensive effort, conducted with the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, to implement a far-reaching system of criminal justice reform. The collaboration is assisting influential judicial representatives from Egypt gain a more comprehensive appreciation of diversion mechanisms utilized in the United States, allowing them to examine the institutions and legal frameworks in which these mechanisms operate, and assisting them in designing a creative diversion model responsive to the needs of their legal community. Six Egyptian jurists, senior prosecutors, and defense attorneys are travel to California in fall 2006 to study the operations of diversion programs, four American legal specialists consult in Cairo in winter 2006, and seven Egyptian jurists work with U.S. counterparts in Washington, D.C. and California to refine model designs for presentation at a national conference in Egypt.

Country(ies): Egypt

Region: Near East

U.S. State: CA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: National Peace Foundation

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Fostering dialogue on scholarship and practice: Faith and Community

The National Peace Foundation, in partnership with the Islamic Society of North America, is bringing 28 clerics and scholars of religion from Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to the United States and taking 14 American counterparts to the Middle East. The project provides foreign participants insight into the importance of religion in American life, the study of religion, particularly Islam, in the United States, and the influence of scholars of religion and community leaders in America, particularly in the American Muslim community. NPF hopes to achieve sustained transformation through continuing relationships among participants and collaboration on substantive community development.

Country(ies): Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia

Region: Near East

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Faith & Community

Name of Organization: Quebec-Labrador Foundation

Location: Ipswich, Massachusetts

Subject: Building capacity of NGOs and local communities to promote responsible government

This grant supports the Quebec-Labrador Foundation's promotion of responsible governance in Syria through capacity building for NGOs and community-based organizations. A seven-phased, three-year program of fellowships, workshops, internships, and conferences focused on strengthening NGOs and community-based Syrian organizations is increasing collaboration among Syrian and American organizations, increasing the role of women and youth in community work, expand volunteerism, and promoting accountability within Syrian civil society. Eight Syrian participants are participating in a workshop and extended training in the U.S. in spring 2007. Four workshops are conducted in Syria by six American specialists in fall 2007, and six Americans work collaboratively with Syrian counterparts in Syria in early 2008.

Country(ies): Syria

Region: Near East

U.S. State: MA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: American Center for International Labor Solidarity

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Implementing exchanges for labor leaders in eight countries in multiple regions

The American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS) is implementing the following exchanges: U.S. study tour to Algeria; U.S. study tour to the Ukraine; U.S. study tour to Kenya; African Telecommunication Trade Unionists study tour to the U.S.; U.S. study tour to Oman; U.S. study tour to Colombia; U.S. study tour to China; U.S. study tour to India; Brazilian study tour to U.S.; African Trade Unionists study tour to U.S.; and scholarships for foreign trade union leaders to study at the George Meany Center.

Country(ies): Algeria, Ukraine, Kenya, Oman, Colombia, China, India, Brazil

Region: Africa, Near East, South and Central Asia, Western Hemisphere

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Institute for Representative Government

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Providing parliamentary study missions and democratic development in countries in multiple regions

The Institute for Representative Government is arranging and monitoring a series of highly targeted, well-timed parliamentary study missions that can provide critical impetus to parliamentary and democratic development initiatives. Specifically, IRG is implementing the following: 1) Balkans: Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro - Constitutional Change and Legislative Reform Program ; 2) Uganda and Liberia - Disability Awareness and Advocacy Program ; 3) Ukraine - Political Party Caucus Strengthening Program; 4) Kazakhstan - Constituent Services Program; 5) Kyrgyzstan - Parliamentary Development Program; 6) Yemen - Budget Monitoring Program; 7) Sri Lanka - Strengthening Parliamentary Processes Program; 8) Egypt - Government Opposition Relations Program and; 9) Democratic Republic of Congo - Legislative Committee Strengthening and Peace Program.

Country(ies): Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Uganda, Liberia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo

Region: Africa, Europe, Near East, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Ohio Northern University

Location: Ada, Ohio

Subject: Building up skills for lawyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia to strengthen democratic institutions in their countries

Summary of Project: This grant brings 12 young lawyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia to the U.S. for a ten-month LL.M program, designed to provide them with the skills for building stable democratic institutions in their countries. In addition to completing two semesters of class work, the students attend four weekend seminars on women's rights, transition from one-party rule, international criminal law and post conflict resolution, led by visiting experts. The program also includes field study trips to local, state and federal judicial and government organizations.

Country(ies): Multiple

Region: Europe, Near East, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: OH

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Sister Cities International

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Supporting Sister City partnerships in over 130 countries

Sister Cities International (SCI), which promotes mutual understanding among citizens of the U.S. and abroad through the activities of the 1,300 U.S. cities affiliated with more than 2,400 sister cities in 137 countries around the world, acts as a coordinator and catalyst in the development of various types of sister-city programs. This grant partially supports SCI functioning as a clearinghouse to gather, analyze and disseminate information and work directly with community leaders and citizen volunteers, as well as elected officials.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: The American Council of Young Political Leaders

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Implementing two-week exchanges for young political leaders

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) supports the development of democratic practices and productive, ongoing contacts between politically active individuals in the United States and their overseas counterparts by coordinating a series of exchange programs for U.S. and foreign participants. These exchanges directly support the Department's U.S. strategic goal to open political systems and societies to democratic practices, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. ACYPL is implementing a series of two-week study tours, involving up to 30 delegations of seven to twelve members each.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: University of Alaska

Location: Fairbanks, AK

Subject: Supporting the implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference

The University of Alaska is implementing a variety of activities designed to address the preparation, planning and implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference. Specific activities include (1) the conference, to be held June 29-July 3, 2008, on the University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus and which focuses on issues associated with understanding permafrost evolution and its feedback to climate change; (2) the operation of the Education and Outreach Coordination Office, which supports activities related to the International Polar Year (IPY), including the travel of U.S. specialists to IPY activities abroad; and (3) the creation of a "Think-tank of the North"--a set of public seminars given around Alaska by prominent scientists, policy makers, and authors who have focused on understanding and adapting to the ongoing challenges the Arctic faces.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: AK

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: World Affairs Council of Oregon

Location: Portland, Oregon

Subject: Creating international connections in three cities and towns outside of Portland, Oregon

This grant supports the World Affairs Council of Oregon's efforts to increase that state's international connections in education, business, government and the non-profit sector in the cities and towns outside of metropolitan Portland. Project activities include the development of three regional centers in Medford, Pendleton and Bend; visits by international visitors at each center; outreach to schools; strengthening of adult discussion groups; and website development.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project